

Message Text

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ACTION FBO-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 INR-07 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00

SS-15 L-03 /054 W

-----055977 051305Z /43

R 051215Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3181

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ABLD, PFOR, ASEC, ACOM, BU

SUBJECT: PROPOSED NEW CHANCERY SITE

REF: A) STATE 149357; B) SOFIA 1247

1. WE APPRECIATED REF A BUT REQUEST SOME MODIFICATION OF INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON.

2. PAST EXPERIENCE SUGGESTS THAT EXCHANGES WITH THE BULGARIANS ON SUBJECT OF NEW CHANCERY SITE ARE SOMEWHAT LIKE A SLOW-MOTION TENNIS GAME, IN WHICH IT TAKES THE BALL ABOUT THREE MONTHS TO GET ACROSS THE NET. THIS BEING SO, AND CONSIDERING THAT A NEW AMBASSADOR IS DUE HERE IN SEPTEMBER, WE THINK THE INTERVENING TIME COULD BE PUT TO GOOD USE IN PREPARING THE GROUND FOR HIM.

3. PARA 2 REF A HAS ALREADY BEEN COMPLIED WITH. AS REPORTED REF B, AMBASSADOR MADE A STRONG PITCH TO ILIEV, WHO HAS THE RANK OF DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER, TO MAKE A "HEROIC" EFFORT TO FIND A TRULY DESIRABLE SITE FOR THE CHANCERY. THE TROUBLE SEEMS TO BE, HOWEVER, THAT ILIEV CANNOT TAKE AWAY BUILDING SITES FROM ANYONE ELSE, NOR CAN HE OVERRIDE CITY

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PLANNING CUTHORITIES.

4. IT OCCURS TO US, THEREFORE, THAT AMBASSAODR'S FAREWELL CALL ON PRESIDENT ZHIVKOV MIGHT PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO GET SOME MOMENTUM FOR HIS ENTERPRISE. UNLESS DEPT SEES SOME OTHER SUBJECT FOR WHICH ZHIVKOV'S ATTENTION MIGHT BE ENGAGED DURING THE FAREWELL CALL, AMBASSADOR

WOULD BE PREPARED TO SAY TO HIM THAT ONE MAJOR DISAPPOINTMENT OF HIS TENURE HERE HAS BEEN THAT DESPITE BEST EFFORTS OF FOREIGN MINISTRY NO SUUTABLE SITE FOR AN AMERICAN EMBASSY HAS BEEN FOUND AS YET, AND THAT IF ZHIVKOV WANTS TO MAKE A NICE GESTURE WHICH WOULD CERTAINLY BE APPRECIATED BY WASHINGTON AND BY THE NEW AMBASSADOR, HE COULD GIVE INSTRUCTIONS TO LOCATE A TRULY PRESTIGIOUS SITE AT LOCATION COMPARABLE TO CHANCERIES OF USSR, FRG, UK, FRANCE AND JAPAN (ALL OF WHICH ARE ON HIGHER TERRAIN THAN SITE 10).

5. THERE IS SOME INTERNAL EVIDENCE IN REF A, ESPECIALLY PARA 4, THAT THAT MESSAGE MAY NOT HAVE BEEN FULLY COORDINATED WITH THOSE IN THE DEPARTMENT WHO HANDLE POLITICAL ASPECTS OF OUR RELATIONS WITH BULGARIA. A POLITICAL DECISION IS REQUIRED WHETHER THE CHANCERY PROBLEM, OR SOME OTHER PROBLEM, SHOULD BE UTILIZED ON THE OCCASION OF AMBASSADOR'S FAREWELL CALL ON ZHIVKOV TO EXTRACT SOME ACTION FROM THE BULGARIANS THAT IS ON OUR INTEREST.

6. ZHIVKOV APPOINTMENT EXPECTED DURING WEEK OF JULY 18.
HERZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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